

**Remarks**

This preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies in the claims and to conform to U.S. practice. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

If a conference call would be useful in resolving issues arising from the filing of this communication, please contact the undersigned at the below-noted number.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. A. Miller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas A. Miller  
Reg. No. 36,871

Docket No. 019721-9002-00

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